



NEWS RELEASE

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
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Release No.: 10222004-3

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FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES Town of Jonesville, Catahoula Parish Communications District, and Trout to Benefit

JONESVILLE, October 22, 2004 – Congressman Rodney Alexander joined USDA Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor today to present the Town of Jonesville, Catahoula Parish Communications District, and Little Creek Searcy Volunteer Fire Department grant funds for important first responder community projects.

Town of Jonesville - \$100,000 Grant

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to purchase a new fire engine for the Town of Jonesville. This fire engine will enable the Town of Jonesville to provide better fire protection for the town and surrounding rural areas.

Town of Jonesville - \$71,250 Grant

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to renovate an existing building to house the Jonesville Police Department. Renovations include construction of three holding cells, replacement of the roof, and installation of a remote camera network.

Catahoula Parish Communications District - \$52,500 Grant

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to renovate the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's dispatch office to meet the requirements of the Fire Marshall's Code. Funds will also be used to purchase equipment and a generator for the first phase of implementation of Catahoula Emergency 911 services.

Little Creek Searcy Volunteer Fire District - \$100,000 Grant

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to purchase a new pumper fire truck for the Little Creek Searcy Volunteer Fire District. The purchase of this truck will enable the fire district to provide fire protection to the Trout community and surrounding areas.

“During this time of heightened homeland security, USDA Rural Development has made a commitment to ensuring our first responders have the facilities and equipment necessary to do their jobs,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana. “These grants will not only provide Catahoula and LaSalle Parish residents enhanced fire and police protection, but begin the process for implementing Emergency 911 service for Catahoula Parish residents.”

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USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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